undertaking the MSP operations within the country, as and when the market price of raw jute reaches the MSP level. MSP has been rising every year and it has been raised from Rs. 650 per quintal (1998-99) to Rs. 750 per quintal for the current session i.e. 1999-2000.

(e) Jute procured through JCI in the last three years is as Under:

Year	Production	Procurement		
		MSP	Commercial	Total
1996-97	10200	0	22	22
1997-98	10900	985	0	985
1998-99	8300	0	45	45
1999-2000 (Upto 3.12.99)	7800	14	86	100

[Figures in '000 B/S (180Kg)

(f) The Government has been providing financial support to NJMC every year, in spite of huge losses suffered by the Corporation for payment of salary and wages to its employees. In addition, Turn Around Plans (TAP) have been prepared from time to time for revival of the Corportation.

Facilities to the weavers in Assam

1512. SHRI SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be spent on handicraft, powerloom and handloom during the Ninth Five Plan in Assam; and

(b) the details of concessions or facilities being given to weavers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) State-wise funds are not allocated for handicrafts and handloom sectors. However, Rs. 87.28 lakhs and Rs. 1405.66 lakhs have been released for development of handicrafts and handloom sector respectively in the state of Assam by the Government during 1998-99. The financial

assistance is extended to the State of Assam every year depending upon receipt of viable proposals and availability of funds.

For powerloom sector a sum of Rs. 4.50 lakhs is provided every year for Powerloom Service Center at Guwahati under the Northern India Textile Research Association.

(b) The concessions/facilities being given to weavers in the State of Assam include: funding of projects under Project Package Scheme by Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 and waiver of contribution of the benefitting agency under the Freelance Designer Scheme.

Textile Mills in Assam

1513. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills in cooperative, public and private sectors functioning in Assam at present;

(b) the number of workers working therein separately;

(c) the financial assistance provided to these mills during the last five years till date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The number of Cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) in cooperative, Public and Private Sector functioning in Assam as on 30.9.99 and the number of workers engaged is given below:

	No. of Mills	No. of workers engaged
Cooperative Sector	2	789
Public Sector		
(a) State Government	4	946
(b) Central Government	1	182
Private Sector	1	942
TOTAL	**8**	**2859**